

## Discover America's 250th Anniversary

### Highlights...

Museum of the American Revolution • West Point Academy • NYC Panoramic Tour • Arlington National Cemetery • U.S. Capitol Building Tour • Lexington & Concord • Liberty Bell



9 Days • 12 Meals: 8 Breakfasts • 1 Lunch • 3 Dinners

#### Cultural Connections

- At Mount Vernon, get a glimpse into George Washington's life and legacy while touring his mansion.
- Reflect on the dramatic story of the nation's founding at the Museum of the American Revolution.
- Tour historic West Point, exploring its start as a Revolutionary War military post to home of the United States Military Academy.

#### Must-See Highlights

- Visit Lexington and Concord, two towns that witnessed the start of the American Revolution.
- At the U.S. Capitol Building, explore the story of a symbol of American democracy.
- Set out on a panoramic tour exploring New York City, old and new.

#### Culinary Experiences

- Enjoy an Italian meal in Boston's famed North End.
- Step back in time for lunch at a historic New York tavern – a favorite spot of several Founding Fathers.
- Docked in Penn's Landing, dine on the Tall Ship Moshulu, the world's oldest and largest square-rigged sailing vessel still afloat.

#### Day 1: Boston, Massachusetts

Celebrate the marking of America's 250th anniversary with a journey from "the Cradle of the American Revolution" through the historic hubs of New York and Philadelphia and to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Arrive in Boston, a city bursting with character and Revolutionary history. As arrival times will be scattered through the afternoon and evening, there are no scheduled activities today.

#### Day 2: Boston - Lexington - Concord - Boston

Today, venture to Lexington and Concord. Begin at Lexington Battle Green, where the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired on April 19, 1775. With your local guide, continue to Concord on a drive that follows the same path that British troops marched that day. Along the road, learn more about Concord's historical significance, a town home to literary figures like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Louisa May Alcott. Step inside Wright Tavern in the center of Concord, where the minutemen and militia gathered before battle, and see the Old Hill Burying Ground. Head to the exact spot where the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired – the Old North Bridge. And at Robbins House, explore stories of the home's former inhabitants with notable ties to African American history. This evening, celebrate the start of your journey with a welcome dinner in Boston's famed North End. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

#### Day 3: Boston - West Point, New York - New York City

You're off to New York City today. But first, a visit to West Point\* highlights why George Washington considered it the most important military post in America. During your guided tour, learn about the garrisoning of West Point during the Revolutionary War and the present role of the United States Military Academy in training the leaders of tomorrow. Along the way, get a glimpse into the cadet experience at this proud institution and take in the view from Trophy Point overlooking the Hudson River. Then, arrive in New York, New York! Check into your Times Square hotel and feel the bustle of modern-day New York all around you. This evening is yours to enjoy the Big Apple. *Today breakfast will be included.*

#### Day 4: New York City

Start your morning like a New Yorker with breakfast at a local diner. Then, delve into historic New York on a blended panoramic and walking tour. Glimpse into Central Park, pause beside the poignant 9/11 Memorial, see St. Paul's Chapel, where George Washington prayed following his inauguration, and view Trinity Church, where Alexander Hamilton was laid to rest. Convene for lunch at New York's most historic tavern – a favorite watering hole among several Founding Fathers, where George Washington famously gathered with a group of officers to celebrate after the last British troops left American soil. The rest of the day is yours to spend as you wish. This evening, if you choose to join an optional dinner and show, take a seat at one of Broadway's biggest hits: *Hamilton!*\*\* Experience the revolutionary musical that shines a spotlight on Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

#### Day 5: New York City - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

On to Philadelphia! Embark on a tour of the "birthplace of America." Step inside Independence Hall, the location of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the drafting of the Constitution. See an iconic symbol of freedom, the Liberty Bell. Then, enjoy free time for lunch at a local market full of delicious food options, perhaps seeking out a local favorite like the Philly cheesesteak. This afternoon, head to the Museum of the American Revolution, where everything you've retraced on the journey so far comes together. Walk through the interactive exhibits imagining what it felt like to be part of the Revolution. Tonight, dinner is on board the legendary Moshulu, the world's oldest and largest square-rigged sailing vessel still afloat. Docked at Penn's Landing, experience a piece of maritime history on this tall ship turned restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

#### Day 6: Philadelphia - Valley Forge - Washington D.C.

En route to Washington, D.C., make a stop at Valley Forge National Historical Park, the winter encampment of George Washington's Continental Army. Step back in time while visiting Washington's Headquarters with a local park guide. Later, arrive in the United States capital, your home for the next three nights. *Today breakfast will be included.*

#### Day 7: Washington, D.C. - Arlington, VA - Washington, D.C.

This morning, discover the celebrated history of America's capital on a tour around the city. Take in views of the National Mall, White House, and other monuments and museums. Pause to reflect at the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. Head to Old Town Alexandria, nestled along the Potomac, and enjoy

time to stroll the cobblestone streets on your own during a quick break for lunch. Then, visit Arlington National Cemetery,\*\*\* where over 400,000 service members and notable figures are honored and remembered. Here, a narrated tour takes you to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Kennedy gravesites. A day in the capital brings a deeper connection to America's history, leadership, and progress throughout its 250 years as a nation. *Today breakfast will be included.*

**Day 8: Washington, D.C. - Mount Vernon - Washington, D.C.**

Set out to see Washington, D.C. Founded in 1790, this vibrant city is known for its political and historical significance, iconic landmarks, and cultural diversity. Today, enter the iconic and storied U.S. Capitol for a guided tour and fascinating look into American history and government. Then, visit Mount Vernon, the beloved home of George Washington, where **it's your choice!** Take a tour of Washington's estate hearing stories from the past about the lives of enslaved people at Mount Vernon **-OR-** about the women of the estate, including Martha Washington. Then, explore the mansion, wander the gardens and grounds, and visit the Washingtons' Tomb. This evening, toast to a fantastic historical journey over a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 9: Washington, D.C. - Tour Ends**

Your tour ends today. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Experience It! Independence National Historical Park

In Philadelphia, explore the “most historic square mile in America.” The Independence National Historical Park is not just a collection of buildings; it represents the founding ideals of the nation and preserves national and international symbols of freedom and democracy. Step inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site considered to be the birthplace of the nation, as this is where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were debated and signed. Today, the Georgian building's Assembly Room reflects its 18th-century appearance with period-appropriate furnishings, making it easy to imagine the foundational events taking place in that very room. Beyond Independence Hall, the park encompasses several other significant sites, including the famous Liberty Bell, a symbol of the abolitionist movement. Connect with America's brave and revolutionary beginnings in Philadelphia.

Your itinerary at a glance

Days 1, 2	The Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston, Cambridge, MA
Days 3, 4	Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, New York, NY
Day 5	Canopy by Hilton Philadelphia Center City, Philadelphia, PA
Days 6 – 8	Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.
On some dates alternate hotels may be used.	

**Collette's Flagship:** Collette's tours open the door to a world of amazing destinations. Marvel at must-see sights, sample regional cuisine, stay in centrally located hotels and connect with new and captivating cultures. These itineraries offer an inspiring and easy way to experience the world, where an expert guide takes care of all the details.

Important Tour Information:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 2.** This means you like a balanced approach to travel. Walking two to three miles over the course of a day is no problem for you. You can handle a variety of terrains, from cobblestone streets to moderate hills with relative ease and without assistance. You can climb two flights of stairs with ease. Expect some full days balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. You can handle altitudes up to 6,000 feet. While this level is appropriate for travelers that require mobility assistance devices, there could be times when you may have to sit out on some of the included activities.

**Travel with an average of 37 people (maximum of 44).**

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is planned to coincide as near as possible with the blooming of the trees. "Peak Bloom Date" is defined as the day on which 70 percent of the blossoms of the Yoshino cherry trees are open. The date when the Yoshino cherry blossoms reach peak bloom varies from year-to-year, depending upon weather conditions. The mean date of blooming is April 3, but nature is not always cooperative, and the National Park Service horticulturists cannot make an accurate prediction much more than 10 days prior. The blooming period starts several days before the Peak Bloom Date and can last as long as 14 days; however, frost or high temperatures combined with wind and/or rain can shorten this period.

During the summer months (June-August), be prepared as the weather can reach high temperatures and many of the tour activities are outdoors.

Due to the long distances covered on this tour, most of our touring days will be full, typically departing for the day by 8:30 a.m. and returning by 5:30 p.m. or later in some cases. This means there will also be some long transfer days on the coach, specifically from Boston to New York and from Philadelphia to Washington D.C., both of which will have over 5 hours of driving time with stops in between.

If you book this tour closer than 45 days prior to departure, your spot on the tour of West Point cannot be guaranteed, in which case you will have leisure time at the West Point Museum.

On certain dates in June and July, travelers may have the opportunity to attend the Sail250 event. Your schedule of tour activities may be adjusted slightly to include this event; however, experiences at the event cannot be guaranteed.

Washington, D.C. attracts visitors year-round, specifically student groups, which means museums and top sites may be crowded.

\*West Point is an active-duty military post. All travelers are required to submit accurate ID information by 45 days prior to the start of the tour. Whatever ID is provided to us must also be produced on the day of the tour (no photocopies accepted, no exceptions) and are subject to a West Point security background check. Details that need to be provided are: identification type (ID, license, passport), legal name, country and state information, ID #, gender and date of birth. If, for any reason, you are unable to be cleared for access to the post, you will be notified in advance and will not be able to participate in the West Point Tour. Instead, you will have a self-guided visit and leisure time at the West Point Museum.

\*\*\*During the second week of October, the Army Ten-Miler Race will be taking place with traffic and road closures impacting our route. For any tour operating during this period, the day and timing of Arlington National Cemetery may change. No itinerary inclusions will be missed.

\*\*Due to limited availability, *Hamilton* tickets are subject to availability. This option must be purchased in advance, at least 130 days prior to departure.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Travel Requirements:

IDENTIFICATION

Travel within USA

For travel completed by May 6, 2025, all airlines will ask for identification when you check in. It is recommended that you carry a passport if you have one. A driver's license (with a photo I.D.) is also acceptable for domestic flights.

Effective for travel May 7, 2025 forward, the REAL ID Act standards for identification while travelling will be in effect. This means a standard issued driver's license used as a form of

identification will no longer be accepted for domestic air travel within the United States. Instead, a Real ID compliant form of identification must be presented both at the time of booking air travel with Collette and upon checking in at the airport to board any flight. Any fees associated with changing a reservation resulting from a non-compliant identification will be the responsibility of the guest. For more information on Real ID, please visit the Department of Homeland Security website: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>

### Cherry Blossom Season in Washington, D.C.

Cherry Blossom season colors the city in a sea of pink and white from mid-March to mid-April. Thousands of trees now grow along the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park, East Potomac Park, and on the Washington Monument grounds. The original trees were a gift from Japan in 1912. Enjoy the many activities and festivities that take place during this beautiful herald of spring. Learn of the history and lineage of these beautiful trees.

Please Note: Blooming will vary slightly from year-to-year due to weather conditions. Dates are to be determined — only Mother Nature knows when the blooms will actually occur and peak!

## Important reservation information:

**\*Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Preassigned seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

**Checked Baggage Charges:** Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

**Cancellation Charges for this tour:** After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 90-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 75% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, Part B of the Travel Protection Plan may provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes, or fees in the event of a cancellation for a covered reason (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the canceling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

**Responsibilities:** Collette monitors security situations around the world as well as government travel advisories. Conditions may require Collette to change or even cancel trips. You accept the risks involved in travel, both foreign and domestic, and accept responsibility for your own travel decisions. Travelers may be required to review and sign a participation agreement prior to engaging in certain activities on the trip.

Neither Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. You agree to be bound by the conditions of carriage for all transportation providers. Collette does not maintain control or operate the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers it uses and as such Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act or omission on the part of any other party. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, agents, shareholders, officers, successors and assigns (collectively "Collette"), from all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims or liability for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which is occasioned by any negligent acts or omissions of Collette arising out of any goods or services provided for this or these trips. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, or other such causes. Other risks may arise such as, but not limited to, hazards of traveling in foreign countries including undeveloped areas, the hazards of travel by aircraft, bus, van, train, automobile or other motorized vehicle, differing safety standards, sickness, criminal acts committed by others, allergic reactions, and/or animal encounters. You are voluntarily participating in the tour and Collette, and as lawful consideration for the agreement to travel with Collette, you agree not to make a claim against Collette, its related companies, officers and employees for injuries, death, or any other claim and agree to release Collette, its related companies, officers and employees from any such claim. This release is binding on all members of your traveling party, as well as your Estate and heirs and this provision shall be enforceable even after your trip has ended. If you make your own air reservations, Collette is not responsible and shall provide no refund if your flight schedule changes so that you are not able to enjoy the entirety of your tour. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if Collette deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Collette reserves the right to withdraw any tour announced. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the Tour Manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. If you are traveling with children, you are solely responsible for their behavior and monitoring them throughout the tour. Neither does Collette accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times. Collette is not responsible, and will not be bound by, representations made by third party representatives, travel agents, unaffiliated websites, or any other party. Participants may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. In addition, any comments that you submit as a review or your social media posts may be used for Collette's promotional purposes.

Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Collette reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time, without notice.

**Consumer Protection Plans:** Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. **Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601-220-855. Florida Seller of Travel registration number. ST35613**

